

GENERAL NOTES.

The Dovekie in Maine in Summer.— On July 15, 1911, while Mr. G. Gilbert Pearson and the writer were taking passage, with a local fisherman, from Machias Seal Island, which is about twelve miles south from Cutler, Maine, when about half way between the Seal Island and Cross Island, Me., or about six miles from either point, we came upon a pair of Dovekies (*Alle alle*) swimming in close company. We found them in one of the eddies of the numerous tide rips, caused by the tidal currents of the Bay of Fundy.

They proved to be a male and female in an interesting stage of plumage. The head, neck, underparts, interscapular region, and tertials of the male were of the nuptial plumage, the neck entirely around being uniformly velvety, sooty brown. The rump and tail were of the winter plumage, faded grayish, and worn. The wings were much worn, some of the primaries with bare shafts for half their length.

The female was similar, except that the winter plumage remained over the entire back behind (caudad) the scapular region; the rectrices had been renewed. The throat and sides of the neck, at the place of the winter half-collar of white, were well sprinkled with white.

Though two leading manuals make no distinction between the sexes, this last feature had the appearance of a sex character, and the female was noticeably smaller than the male.

Though the birds were in fair bodily condition and had not been crippled they showed no indication of breeding, and it is doubtful if they could have flown.

I am told by Capt. Merton Tolman, until recently keeper of Matinicus Rock light station, a man whose word in such a matter is not to be doubted, that during the summer of 1910, one of these birds was frequently seen near Matinicus Rock.

So far as known to me, these are the only instances recorded, of the verified occurrence of the bird in summer south of Newfoundland. (Cf. Townsend and Allen, Proc. Boston Soc. N. H., XXXIII, p. 309.)—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Portland, Me.*

The Greater Shearwater on the Coast of Georgia.— On June 11, 1911, I found a dead bird on the beach at Tybee in an advanced state of decomposition. The head only was saved and has been identified by Prof. W. W. Cooke as the Greater Shearwater (*Puffinus major*). As this is the first record of the species in this State he suggests my sending the record for publication in 'The Auk.'

It may be of interest, too, to note a second breeding record of the Savannah Sparrow on Tybee Island. The locality was about half a mile from the nest recorded last year (Auk, XXVII, p. 458), and, as in that case,

contained nearly fledged young. It would not have been discovered but for the twittering of the nestlings when being fed by the parent bird. The nest was merely a few straws in a depression of the ground in the middle of a large tuft of "bunch grass."—W. J. HOXIE, *Savannah, Ga.*

Pomarine Jaeger Capturing a Phalarope.—An interesting account of a Pomarine Jaeger capturing and devouring a Phalarope has just been presented to me by a friend, Mr. Allan Moses of Grand Manan, N. B. Mr. Moses and his family for three generations have been taxidermists and students of ornithology and I have always found their observations accurate and their accounts reliable. Mr. Moses was fishing several miles off shore at the time and apparently there were numerous Northern Phalaropes in the vicinity. He writes: "I saw something last Friday that I never saw or knew anything about before. I saw a Pomarine Jaeger catch a phalarope. There was a pair of the jaegers. The female started after the phalaropes and chased them a long time. They were too smart for her, and after a long chase, she separated out one, and then the male gave chase, and in a few minutes with the two chasing the little fellow, one caught him within a hundred yards of the vessel; then they both lighted in the water and ate him."

This letter was dated May 31, and "last Friday" would be the twenty-sixth, making the date of the observation, May 26, 1911.—ALBERT W. TUTTLE, *Boston, Mass.*

Egrets (*Herodias egretta*) in Massachusetts.—On August 9, 1911, I secured an Egret from a flock of six on the Eastham Marshes of Cape Cod. The birds had been feeding far out on the open mud flats, but luckily for me approached some "hummocks" of grass behind which I was able to stalk them. Mr. Matthew Luce, who has a house commanding a fine view of the marsh, had been seeing them intermittently since about July 21, and on several occasions approached within a few yards of them. Walter Nickerson, the game warden, had also been watching them and said they always roosted together in a certain tree at a nearby Night Heron colony.—STANLEY COBB, *Milton, Mass.*

The Egret in Plymouth County, Mass.—On July 27, 1911, I saw two Egrets (*Herodias egretta*) in the salt marsh near the mouth of North River, which is the boundary between the towns of Marshfield and Scituate on the south shore of Massachusetts. They were catching fish, and permitted a fairly near approach. Neither had plumes. They were still at North River on August 6.

On July 30 I saw an Egret in the southern part of the town of Plymouth. This bird was catching frogs and fish at a small pond but a short distance from farm buildings. When I startled him, he flew up into a hillside pasture close by. The tall white wader presented a striking and unique